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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,727	07/30/2004	Masuhiko Natsuhara	39.047	4726

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EXAMINER

CHANDRA, SATISH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1763

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,727

Applicant(s)

NATSUHARA ET AL.

Examiner

Satish Chandra

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of species 1 in the reply filed on September 30, 2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ushigoe et al (JP 05-009740).

Ushigoe et al discloses:

Regarding claim 1,

A ceramic heater block 1 (Fig 1) comprising a conductive heater (electro conductive element) 4; and two rod-like electrodes 8A and 8B for supplying electricity to the heating elements 4 through terminals 5A and 5B wherein electrodes are connected to outside the processing chamber through lead wire 9.

Regarding claim 2, electrodes 8A and 8B (Figs 1, 2) are enclosed in a tubular pieces 11A and 11B (cylindrical object).

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Regarding claims 5 and 6, a semiconductor wafer-heating device comprising a susceptor 2 (wafer heating surface, Fig 8) located in a processing chamber.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pollock et al (US 6,082,297).

Pollock et al discloses:

Regarding claim 1,

A ceramic heater block 75 (Fig 4) comprising a conductive heater (electro conductive element) 76; and two electrodes 79 for supplying electricity to the heating elements 76 through terminals wherein electrodes are connected to outside the processing chamber through a cable 80 and end connector 81.

Regarding claim 2, electrodes 79 (Fig 4) are enclosed in a tubular pieces 80 (cylindrical object).

Regarding claims 5 and 6, a semiconductor wafer-heating device comprising a susceptor 74 (wafer heating surface, Fig 4) located in a processing chamber.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushigoe et al (JP 05-009740) in view of Pollock et al (US 6,082,297).

Ushigoe et al was discussed above.

Ushigoe et al differs from the present invention in that Ushigoe et al does not teach introducing an inert gas into the interior of the tubular piece.

Pollock et al discloses:

Regarding claim 3 and 4, providing an inert gas (conductive gas such as helium) within the encasement (susceptor) 75 (Fig 4) wherein the heater (electro - conductive element) 74 includes an inner resistive element 76 and the electrical lead-out wires (electrodes) 79 connected to the element 76 at one end and extend to the end connector 81 (Column 6, lines 34 –43). The inert gas is supplied to all the elements in the encasement 75 including electrodes.

Regarding claims 7 and 8, a susceptor 75 (Fig 4) is located in a processing chamber.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention to provide an inert gas in the housing of Ushigoe et al as taught by Pollock et al.

Motivation is to prevent oxidation of the heating element and improve thermal conductance as taught by Pollock et al.

Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satish Chandra whose telephone number is 571-272-3769. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, primary examiner Jeffrie R. Lund can be reached on 571-272-1437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Satish Chandra



Jeffrie R. Lund
Primary Examiner